

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An expression cassette including a sequence encoding an insulin secretory signal operably linked to a heterologous sequence encoding a mature somatotropin, wherein the insulin secretory signal has the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO: 1 or is a modified insulin secretory signal which has one or more amino acid modifications of the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO: 1 and has the same biological activity as an insulin secretory signal having the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO: 1.

2. (Original) An expression cassette according to claim 1, wherein the insulin secretory signal has the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO:1.

Claims 3, 4 and 5 (Previously Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) An expression cassette according to claim 1 wherein the heterologous sequence encodes a mature porcine somatotropin.

7. (Previously Canceled)

8. (Previously Amended) A vector including an expression cassette according to claim 1.

9. (Previously Amended) A recombinant cell which includes an expression cassette according to claim 1.

10. (Original) A recombinant cell according to claim 9, wherein the cell is a bacterial, yeast, insect or mammalian cell.

11. (Original) A recombinant cell according to claim 10, wherein the cell is a mammalian cell.

12. (Original) A mammalian cell according to claim 11, wherein the cell is a rat myoblast (L6) cell.

13. (Previously Amended) A method of producing somatotropin which includes culturing a recombinant cell of claim 9 under conditions enabling the expression and secretion of the somatotropin and optionally isolating the somatotropin.

Claims 14 to 28 (Previously Canceled)